



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2009

No. 127

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we turn to You this morning aware of our insufficiency. We are but burning candles lashed by winds that mock our boasting pride. Remind us that human efforts and ingenuity are powerless without You. You alone, O Lord, deserve honor and praise, for power, glory, and victory belong to You.

Infuse our lawmakers with Your might. Be for them as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. Give them some wisdom, Lord, that their labors will enable America to stand with freedom's lamp aloft as a beacon of hope for our world. As our Senators tackle today's tasks, make them conscious of their great heritage of liberty and justice for all. May no weapon that is formed be able to defeat this land we love. We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK L. PRYOR led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 10, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. PRYOR thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 12:30 today, with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees. This period of morning business will give Senators an opportunity to pay tribute to our colleague, the late Senator Ted Kennedy.

Following morning business, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume debate on the nomination of Cass Sunstein to be Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs in the Office of Management and Budget.

Yesterday, cloture was invoked on the nomination. Senators will be notified when the vote on confirmation of the nomination is scheduled.

As a reminder to Senators, at 2:45 p.m. today, Senator-designate GEORGE LEMIEUX will be sworn in as a Senator from the State of Florida, replacing Mel Martinez.

Following disposition of the Sunstein nomination—and I have had conversations with floor staff, both Democratic and Republican, to see if we can move forward on an appropriations bill. Senator MCCONNELL and I have talked about trying to get as many done as we can. We have four done, and we have eight to go.

REMEMBERING SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY

Mr. REID. “A freshmen Senator should be seen, not heard; should learn, and not teach.”

Mr. President, that is a quote from Senator Ted Kennedy. These are the very first words he spoke on the floor of this Chamber. He was hesitant to rise and speak that April day when he said those words. He had been a Senator for less than 18 months. The country was still reeling from President Kennedy's death just months before.

But the question before the Senate was the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Senator Kennedy knew he could hold his tongue no longer.

He rose to speak because he loved his country. He waited as long as he did to give that maiden speech because he loved this institution. In that speech, he said a Senator of his stature at the time should be seen and not heard. But 45 years later, we can still hear his great booming voice. He said young Senators should learn and not teach. But who can list all we learned from his leadership?

It was a thrill to work with Ted Kennedy personally. He was a friend, the model of public service, and an American icon. He was a patriarch of both the Kennedy family and the Senate family. Together, we mourn his loss.

At so many difficult times in their family's history, the Kennedys have turned to their Uncle Teddy for comfort. At so many critical times in our country's history, America has turned to Ted Kennedy for the same.

We can all remember how he walked solemnly with the grieving First Lady at Arlington National Cemetery. We can remember how his deep love for his brother helped him somehow summon the strength to deliver a defining eulogy in New York. We can all remember how, as patriarch, he memorialized his nephew off the shores of Massachusetts.

For decades, Ted Kennedy was a rock to his family. The impact he has etched

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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